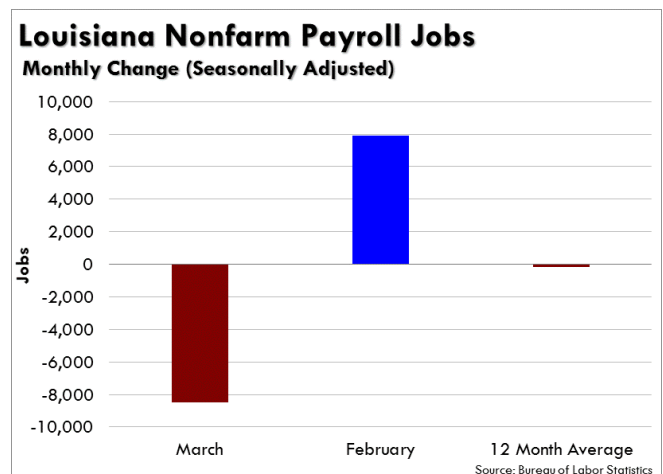
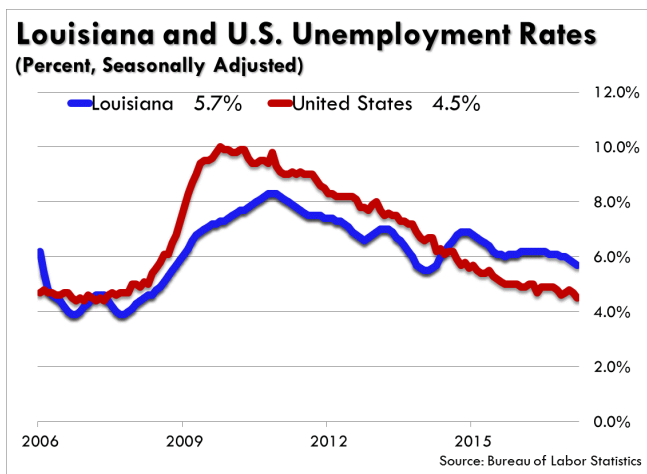


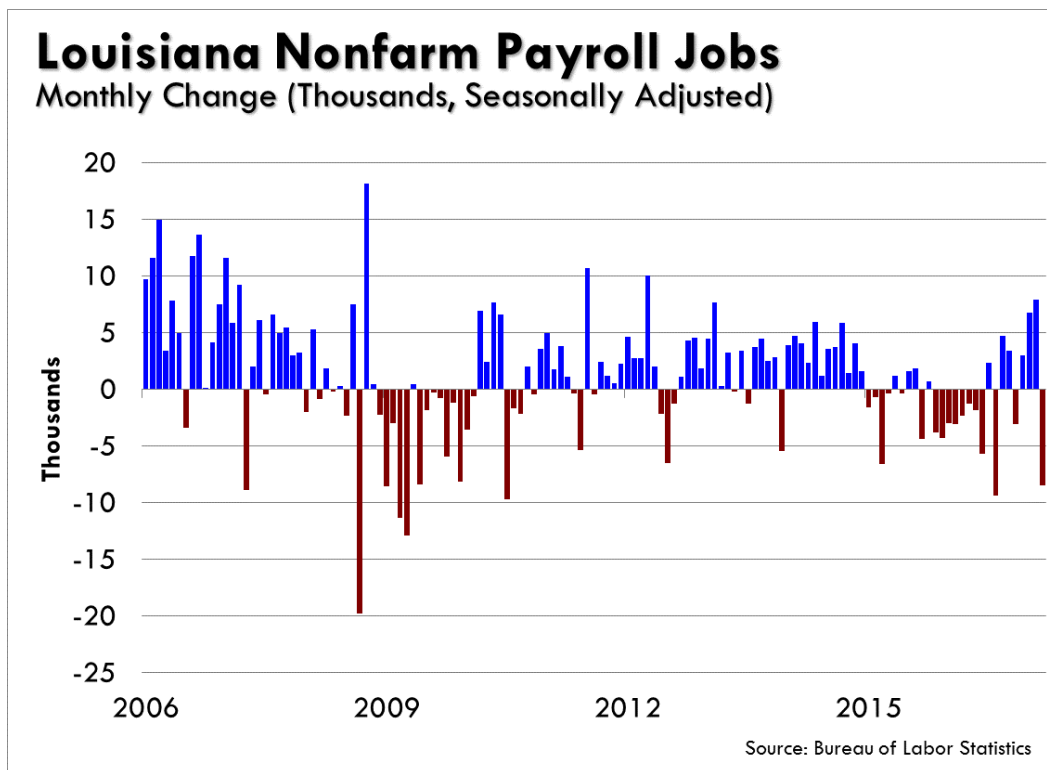


April 23, 2017

Summary

- **Louisiana lost 8,500 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 5.7 percent in March** according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- **Over the past twelve months, Louisiana lost 1,900 jobs** and the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage point from 6.2 percent.
- **In March, Louisiana's private sector lost 8,100 jobs** and over the past twelve months it created 900 jobs.
- The number of **unemployed Louisianans fell by 1,612 in March**, and over the past year 9,598 Louisianans lost jobs.
- Louisiana's **labor force participation rate increased to 58.8 percent** from 58.6 percent in March. Since last year, the labor force participation rate fell 0.8 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate **declined by 0.2 percentage point to 4.5 percent in March**. State employment and unemployment data for April is scheduled for release on May 19, 2017. The national employment situation report for April will be released on Friday, May 5, 2017.





Louisiana Payroll Employment

Louisiana lost 8,500 jobs, or 0.43 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during March. In the prior month, Louisiana added 7,900 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Louisiana declined by 1,900, or 0.10 percent. Louisiana nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

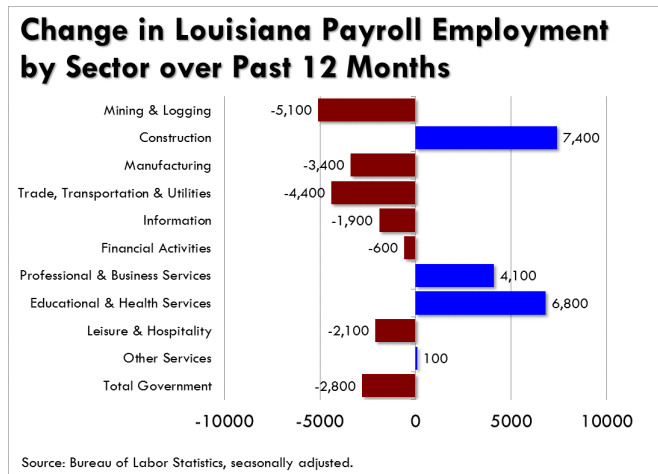
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 98,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the 12-month period ending March 2017, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,185,000 jobs, or 1.52 percent. Louisiana ranks 40th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During March, Louisiana's private-sector lost 8,100 jobs, or 0.49 percent. The private-sector in Louisiana added 8,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Louisiana increased by 900, or 0.05 percent. Louisiana private-sector payroll employment has increased in 6 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 89,000 jobs in March, or 0.07 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,033,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.67 percent. Louisiana ranks 34th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during March were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (+1,500) and Educational & Health Services (+1,000). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Construction (-6,700) and Manufacturing (-2,500).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Construction (+7,400) and Educational & Health Services (+6,800). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-5,100) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-4,400).



Louisiana Labor Force Statistics

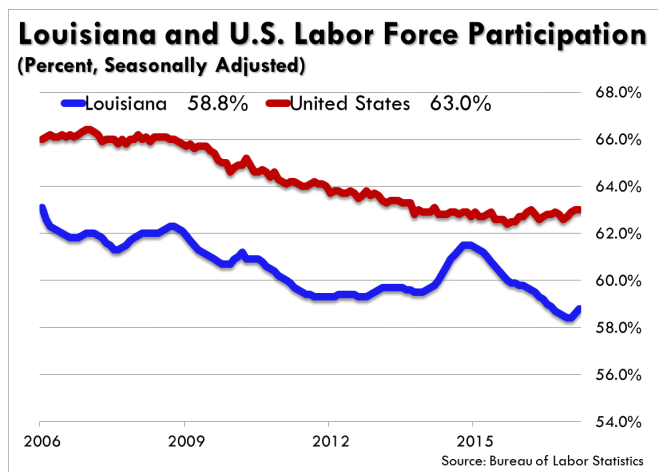
Labor Force Participation

The labor force participation rate in Louisiana rose to 58.8 percent in March from 58.6 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 45 have a higher labor force participation rate than Louisiana. The labor force participation rate in Louisiana is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Louisiana was 62.3 percent in October 2008. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Louisiana occurred in September 2005 when the labor force participation rate hit 66.5 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 58.4 percent in January 2017. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in December 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 56.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 63.0 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.

Employment-to-Population Ratio

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Louisiana civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 55.4 percent in March from 55.2 percent the prior



month. At 55.4 percent, Louisiana has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana is 0.5 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana was 59.3 percent in January 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Louisiana occurred in September 2005 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 60.3 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 54.9 percent in

December 2016. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1977 when the employment-to-population ratio was 52.4 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 60.1 percent in March. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

